



AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY

Housing: Question on Number of Rooms (H-7)

FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL USES OF DATA ABOUT NUMBER OF ROOMS

- The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) uses these data to determine the Emergency Shelter Grant amount for an eligible jurisdiction.
- HUD also uses these data to allocate low-income housing assistance in a fair and equitable manner.
- The Department of Agriculture uses these data to determine which areas should receive direct multi-family loan assistance.
- Individuals use these data when considering where to relocate.
- Community organizations and developers use these data to determine the size and type of housing needed in neighborhoods.
- State and local governments, faith-based and other non-profit organizations use these data to plan, budget, and pay benefits.

QUESTION AS IT APPEARS IN THE QUESTIONNAIRE

7 How many rooms are in this house, apartment, or mobile home? Do NOT count bathrooms, porches, balconies, foyers, halls, or half-rooms.

☐ 1 room

☐ 2 rooms

☐ 3 rooms

☐ 4 rooms

☐ 5 rooms

☐ 6 rooms

☐ 7 rooms

☐ 8 rooms

☐ 9 or more rooms

EXAMPLES OF LEGAL REQUIREMENTS FOR NUMBER OF ROOMS DATA

- Community Services Block Grant Act
- Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program
- Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination, Subchapter III—Title 25, Chapter 43

[<www.census.gov/acs/www>](http://www.census.gov/acs/www)

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Helping You Make Informed Decisions



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HISTORY OF THE NUMBER OF ROOMS QUESTION

- The question on number of rooms has been asked since 1940.
- The question also was asked on the Census 2000 long-form questionnaire.

WHY WE ASK IT THIS WAY

The number of rooms in combination with the number of people living in a unit provides a ratio of people to rooms. Data about the number of people per room are used to measure the extent of overcrowding among our country's households. A housing unit often is considered crowded if it has more than one person to a room. The number of rooms in a home also is used as a measure of housing-unit size in the absence of information on square footage.

WHAT IS THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY?

The American Community Survey (ACS) is a nationwide survey that collects socioeconomic and housing information and is the planned replacement for the long form in the 2010 Census.

The U.S. Census Bureau plans to conduct the ACS in every county, American Indian and Alaska Native Area, Hawaiian Home Land, and in Puerto Rico, once it is fully implemented, pending Congressional funding. The ACS has been tested across the country since 1996.

HOW CAN I SEE THE RESULTS OF THE SURVEY ?

The information collected from these tests is published on the Census Bureau's Web site at:

<www.census.gov/acs/www>

and American FactFinder at:

<<http://factfinder.census.gov>>

For more information call, e-mail, or visit our Web site:

1-888-456-7215

<cmo.acs@census.gov>

<<http://www.census.gov/acs/www>>

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